

Message Text

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USEC BRUSSELS 251

C O N F I D E N T I A L VALLETTA 0039

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, EEC, MT, GW

SUBJECT: MINTOFF'S TALK WITH FRG FOREIGN MINISTER
GENSCHER

REF: VALLETTA 0028 (NOTAL)

1. GERMAN CHARGE HAS INFORMED NATO AMBASSADORS HERE THAT IN MINTOFF'S DECEMBER 9 CONVERSATION WITH FOREIGN MINISTER GENSCHER IN BONN, HE REFERRED TO THE INCREASING POSSIBILITY OF COMMUNIST PART PARTICIPATION IN SOME MEDITERRANEAN GOVERNMENTS. CALLING THIS THE "EMERGENCE OF NEW AND IMPORTANT FORCES," MINTOFF URGED THE GERMANS TO "TEST THIS POSSIBILITY" RATHER THAN "SNEER AT IT."

2. MINOTFF COMPLAINED TO GENSCHER OF MALTA'S PROBLEMS IN GETTING THE SASSISTANCE PACKAGE OUT OF THE EEC AND SAID HE WOULD NOT ASK THE EEC FOR SUCH AID AGAIN. HE MUCH PREFERRED DEALING WITH
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THE FRENCH, ITALIANS, GERMANS AND BRITISH ON A

BILATERAL BASIS -- AND AT THE HIGHEST LEVEL. HIS RELATIONS WITH THE U.S., HE SAID, HAD BEEN "ONLY THIRD HAND," AND HE WAS GRATEFUL TO THE ITALIANS FOR VOLUNTEERING TO ARRANGE A FUTURE MEETING FOR HIM WITH SECRETARY KISSINGER. GENSCHER AGREED THAT SUCH A MEETING WOULD BE VERY USEFUL.

3. MINTOFF TOLD GENSCHER CATEGORICALLY THAT THERE WOULD BE NO FOREIGN BASE IN MALTA AFTER THE BRITISH LEAVE IN 1979. MALTA WOULD NOT BECOME A MEMBER OF EITHER NATO OR THE WARSAW PACT. HE ADDED THAT HIS RELATIONS WITH MOSCOW WERE COOLER THAN WITH ANY OTHER STATE.

4. MINTOFF ASKED IF THE GERMANS COULD PROVIDE MALTA WITH 200 COWS TO REPLACE THOSE DESTROYED DURING THE SPRING 1975 HOOF AND MOUTH DISEASE OUTBREAK IN MALTA. HE ALSO RENEWED AN EARLIER REQUEST FOR TWO PATROL AIRCRAFT AND ASKED FOR GERMAN EXPERTS TO ASSIST ON SUB-SOIL IRRIGATION PROJECTS. FINALLY, HE ASKED FOR GERMAN SUPPORT IN COMPRESSING THE EEC GRANT/LOAN PACKAGE OF 26 MILLION UNITS OF ACCOUNT INTO A PERIOD OF THREE YEARS, INSTEAD OF FIVE.

5. GENSCHER, APPARENTLY WITHOUT ENTHUSIASM, AGREED TO RAISE THE LATTER POINT IN BRUSSELS AND TOOK THE OTHER REQUESTS, INCLUDING THE SURPRISING ONE FOR COWS, UNDER ADVISEMENT. (THE MALTESE ALREADY HAVE OBTAINED A COMMITMENT FROM THE DUTCH TO REPLACE THE SAME 200 COWS.) HE ALSO TOLD MINTOFF THAT GERMANY CONTINUED TO BE INTERESTED IN THE MEDITERRANEAN BECAUSE OF ITS COMMON MARKET TIES, AND THAT HE HOPED TO VISIT MALTA IN 1976, PERHAPS IN CONJECTION WITH HIS FORTHCOMING TRIP TO TUNISIA.

6. COMMENT: MINTOFF'S REFERENCE TO THE COMMUNIST PARTIES IN SOME MEDITERRANEAN COUNTRIES AS THE "EMERGENCY OF NEW AND IMPORTANT FORCES" IS CONFIDENTIAL

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BECOMING A RECURRING THEME WITH HIM. HE FLAGGED THE SAME POINT TO THE ATTENTION OF BRITISH DEFENSE SECRETARY MASON ON JANUARY 2 (REFTEL). WE ARE NOT YET CERTAIN WHAT MINTOFF IS REALLY DRIVING AT IN HIS FREQUENT REFERENCES TO THIS WELL-KNOWN DEVELOPMENT. WE WILL ATTEMPT TO OBTAIN SOME CLARIFICATION ON THIS POINT, AS WELL AS ON HIS REQUEST TO SHORTEN THE TIME

PERIOD FOR THE EEC ASSISTANCE FROM FIVE TO
THREE YEARS. SMITH

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